

Current

Exhibits at the Museum at the Carnegie

Strong People: Faces of Clallam County Permanent exhibit that covers the history of the county.

Railroads, Here and There, Then and Now- Temporary exhibit

Board Meetings

The second Monday of each month, at noon. Call 452-2662 for location. All members are welcome.

History Tales

Port Angeles City Council Meeting Room
325 East Fifth St.

The free presentations are the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

The public is welcome.

Feb. 3 Pat Neal,
"North Olympic Peninsula Fishing Stories"

Mar. 2 June Robinson,
"The Michigan Soldiers Colony"

Apr. 6 Steve Hauff,
"Rayonier Logging Tales of the West End"

May 4 Alice Alexander,
"Settlers on the Elwha"

June 1 Annual Meeting, Dona Cloud,
"Gregers M. Lauridsen"

Fashion Show Stunning Success

The razzle dazzle of shimmering gold fabric, glitter of multi-colored sequins and rustle of taffeta were all a part of the Town and Gown dance club fashion show presented by the Clallam County Historical Society.

Dona Cloud and Beryle Middleton chaired the successful fundraiser. CCHS volunteers; Adria Fuhrman, vintage clothes collector from Forks; members of the Community Players and Lou Lawrence, of Willi-Lou's Clothing Store fame, modeled gowns and day and casual wear from the 1940s to mid-1970s.

Lou Lawrence, escorted by Community Player Bal Balducci, pictured right, opened and closed the show. Lou was a member of Town and Gown, and is modeling a dress she wore to a Town and Gown dance. More than 70 fashions were displayed by 25 models.

The show ran like clockwork thanks to Kathy Monds' emcee expertise. In addition to introducing the models and their outfits, she added interesting historical tidbits throughout the show. "So many people worked on the show and we thank them all," said Monds. "All of the models came in for fittings, some more than once, and their performances were outstanding. Behind the scenes Jill Coughenour from Mary Kay helped with makeup; Jenny Bauman designed the program cover, invitation, and took the photo shown above; Darcy Gort kept the models on schedule as they descended the stairway, and Maxine Miller kept the snacks available in the restaurant area. It was an outstanding volunteer effort," said Monds.



New Exhibit opening in March

"A Walk in the Woods: 80 Years of Rayonier," will open at the Museum at the Carnegie the last week in March.

The exhibit, a photographic history of Rayonier Industries, will open with a reception for the public, and will run until September 2008.

President's News and Views

It has been six months since I was elected president of the Clallam County Historical Society. The effort and cooperation of the board of directors, executive director, staff, volunteers, membership and general public has been very gratifying.

A huge thank you to all past and present members who have dedicated many hours toward achieving positive outcomes. A special thank you to Karen Scott, Don Perry and Bill Larson who have recently left the board of directors, and to Dianne Williams who was an active and appreciated volunteer.

In 2008, the key word will be ACTION and CCHS will focus on the following:

**Introducing. . .
New
Individual and Family
Members**

Trina Young
Glynda Schaad
Joan Quigley
William S. Hanable
Dana Church Cordrey
Rachel Gallagher
Laura Bogen
Annika Wallendahl
Heidi Eggebroten
Glenna Marlett
Julie Dansereau
Bill Pearl
Temres Family
May Y. Carrell
Gail Porter
Berniece Byrne
Mike Libera and
Cindy Paulin

A Word from Kathy

The year 2008 promises to be an exciting time for the Historical Society. It's only January, and we have already hosted a visit to the Museum at the Carnegie from the Mutsu City delegation, entertained guests at a fashion show, and started the process of replacing two more floors at Lincoln.

As you know, the exhibits in the lower level of the Carnegie change every year. This spring we will welcome "A Walk in the Woods: 80 Years of Rayonier" which is a photograph exhibit. More details will be available soon, so watch this newsletter and local media for dates, times and specific events.

Also, the Historical Society will be celebrating its 60th anniversary. A newly formed committee will be planning special events as we look at the past and plan for the future.

As always, the work we do would not be possible without the many volunteers who dedicate their time to our projects and you—our members—for all your support.

Thank you!!

Kathy Monds
Executive Director

Visit the Historical Society's web site at:
www.clallamhistoricalsociety.com

Changes Coming Soon

By Betsy Bauman, Technical Committee Chair

At their December meeting the Board of Directors approved the Technology Committee report that recommended upgrading some of the equipment that CCHS uses to keep track of our collections. Funds to make this possible have been gifted anonymously by a Historical Society member who donates a generous amount each year. This year the funds were earmarked for technology projects. To say we are grateful would be an understatement.

Two new computer systems, including flat screen monitors, will be added to the laptop that was purchased in 2006 and the three will be connected to a server that will allow the sharing of information. Two work-stations will be set up in the administrative office where volunteers can enter information about each item donated to the Society, eventually building a database for the entire collection. We are also upgrading our Past Perfect Museum Software to

make this process easier.

A new digital camera has been ordered that will give us better quality photos and the ability to store them in a computer file, to view, print, and utilize whenever we need them. Also on the list for the near future is an 11"x17" scanner and a new Fax/Copier for the administrative office. For the present time, however, we'll have our hands full installing and learning to make the best use of our purchases.

Business Members

1986

First Federal
Savings & Loan

1990

Murray Motors
Olympic Stationers
Peninsula Daily News

1998

Sound Moving and
Storage

1999

Port Angeles
Business Assn.

2005

Bo Baggins Daycare
McClain Crouse Co.

2007

Fryer & Sons
Insurance
Pen Print Incorporated
Port Angeles Chevron
Gregory Birch, DDS
Peninsula Dental
Clinic
Washington State
Library

Introducing. . . New

Business Members

Omega International

Telephone Communications — Lake Crescent

In this memoir Mrs. Minnie Pellerin Lewis (May 30, 1889—Jan. 28, 1982) shares her experiences with early day communications in the county, covering 20 event-filled and history-making years. Her parents came to Port Angeles with the Puget Sound Cooperative Colony in 1888.

CCHS Photo



Early Switchboard in Port Angeles. Frank Dustman is on the left. The women aren't identified.

When one thinks of the area communications now and a number of years ago, it brings to mind April 1906, and the San Francisco earthquake. At that time I lived at Fairview, a distance of six or seven miles from Port Angeles, Washington. An elderly couple in our neighborhood had a daughter, grandson and granddaughter-in-law living in San Francisco and were, of course, anxious to hear of their fate. As there were no telephones and no mail delivery to see if there was any word from them, every day after lunch I saddled my pony and rode to the Port Angeles Post Office and to the Telegraph office. On the fourth trip there was a message waiting for me written on a small scrap of paper torn off a paper sack's notched edge. There was no stamp and only the words "All safe."

I made several more trips to the Post Office and then one day there was a real letter, stamp and all. Today, one would hear the news and see the pictures on television almost as soon as it happened.

Charles Farmer and William F. Delabarre came to Port Angeles to take over the Cain National Bank and renamed it the Citizen's National Bank. They were also responsible for the first telephone company in Port Angeles. Telephone coverage was soon extended to Sequim, Lake Crescent and Lake Sutherland. In 1909 telephones were installed in the resorts at Lake Crescent. The phones were all on one line, with a different combination of rings for each resort.

The first private phone in Port Angeles was installed in the home of Baron Von Slosser who came to Port Angeles in 1899. He purchased a home on Fifth and Laurel Streets where the Fire Hall is

now located. The Baron had a phone installed in his home, and had it connected with the Commercial Hotel so that he could phone and have whatever he wanted sent up to him.

While I was supposed to go to work at the Lake Crescent Exchange of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1928, I did not start work until 1929. I was the only operator and my hours of work usually varied. After working that erratic schedule for 10 years, I was told the office could have closed between 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. However, since I had to stay there I always answered, in case of emergency, as my customers were very considerate and did not call unless necessary. I worked there until 1946, and finished my twenty-year term at the new Port Angeles office.

The means of communication at Lake Crescent were many as there were no Pacific Telephone

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CCHS Photo



The road around Lake Crescent in 1919.

Telephone Communications — Lake Crescent

and Telegraph lines available at Lake Crescent Tavern on that side of the Lake and no one who lived at what was known as the Cove was able to get a phone. The United States Forest Service line to Snider Ranger Station was full. Messages were called to the Lake Crescent office and sent from there by either the laundry truck driver, milkmen or bus driver. Often I would phone Mrs. Brooks at Storm King Inn and she would send messages on with her customers who stopped for gas or other supplies. The Forest Service was also very helpful and the District Ranger, Mr. Sanford Floe, would send a car for people if there were emergency calls. There was only one entrance to Rosemary Inn at the time I began work at the Lake, and the bus had to back track. When the driver came around the curve he would hold up his fingers if he had passengers for Ovington's Resort. I would then call Mrs. Ovington to tell her if she had passengers on the bus. I would dash back to the door and catch him on his return trip by holding up my fingers. The bus did not drive in to Ovingtons and had to be met at the highway.

Another communication system was by "Whistle," a certain number of toots for each party concerned. Customers who had phones disconnected in the fall before Pearl Harbor, could not get phones the following spring, so the Whistle system really got a workout that summer. An Army Chaplain, staying at the Aldwell home that summer asked to be added to the list. He wanted one whistle, but that was Aldwell's signal so I told him if my breath held out I would call him by four toots. None of this was required but it was a big help to people and much appreciated, I'm sure.

No personal calls could be charged to the Ranger Station lines so I had such calls charged to my phone, and customers would stop to pay when they went by, or would mail in the amount. These cases were mainly the boys at the lookout stations for the summer, Civilian Conservation Corps, etc.

Telephone linemen were busy for a week or more preparing the office for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to Lake Crescent. The switchboard was a Stromberg-Carlson run by battery, there were no lights, and all calls had to be cranked out by hand. The only way of knowing when the call was finished was to plug in on the line and listen, if all was quiet one presumed the conversation was ended.

"The only way of knowing when the call was finished was to plug in on the line and listen, if all was quiet one presumed the conversation was ended."

There was a report that a line direct from Washington, D.C. connected with the Lake Crescent Tavern, where the President stayed, but this was incorrect as all calls went through the Lake Crescent office. They did have a special operator at the Tavern to take all calls.

The Telephone Company set up a teletype at the Lake Crescent Office, and as there was no electricity, power was built up by batteries sufficient to run it. I was told how to receive calls, but not how to shut the machine off. When everyone had left and I was alone, I received a call and had to let it run until the tape was running out the door before anyone happened along to stop the machine.

In May 1940 all the phone poles around the part of the lake within the Olympic National Park had to be removed from the highway and brought across the lake, from the north side to the telephone office. I believe the boat used

for this maneuver belonged to Petrus Pearson.

After Pearl Harbor there were U.S. Army Flashes to be reported. When such a call came, customers hung up immediately, and the operator reported to the Filter Station in Port Angeles. Sometimes the calls came in so fast it was

almost impossible to keep up with them. After December 7, 1941 I had a relief operator for eight hours, and was on duty for sixteen hours as Army Flashes came at all hours of the day and night.

In 1946 the new dial office was completed. Since no operator was needed I was transferred to the Port Angeles office. However, the dial system at the Lake was not satisfactory due to dampness. Oil heat was installed in the building but the situation did not improve. A new building was built on the north side of the lake at the East Beach road and the equipment installed there was used for several years. The office is now at Joyce, Washington, on Highway 112, a new up-to-date building, not much like the office near Rosemary Inn on Lake Crescent, 40 years ago.

There were many interesting and tragic things that occurred during those 17 years, enough to fill a book. There were fires, drownings, accidents and the mystery surrounding the finding of the body of "The Lady of The Lake," causing the visits of the Clallam County Sheriff and Criminal Investigator Fultz.

CCFS Contributors — 2007

Building Fund

Linda Giller
Darryl Wareham
Charlotte Peterson
Gary and Geraldine Braun
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James Buchanan
Karen Scott
Lisa Hilt and John Teichert
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Karen Scott
Clark Munro
Quilted Strait
JoAnne Hughes
Dorothy Drain
Virginia Fitzpatrick
Clallam Art League
First Federal Savings and Loan
(Carnegie)

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Clarence and Shirley Peacock, Dan and Carolyn Peacock for
Kathleen Jo Kushman
Clarence and Shirley Peacock for Peter and Jennie McNally
Ruth Hamilton for Royal Pullen
Jean Curwen for John Bland
Earle and Dorothy Thompson for Elaine Rambo
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Keith Engelson

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Ellen Wright, Vincent and Betty Avallone, and Dick and Dorothy
Catlett for Johan Van Os
Peggy Norris and Maxine and Merlyn Miller for Dorothy Frone
Rusty and Valerie Hilt for Bud Fuller
Virginia Fitzpatrick, Jim and Dona Cloud, Ray and June Robinson,
MaryAnn McDaniel and Pat Gallup for Elaine Rambo
Dick and Beverly Davidson for David Morris
Myron Spath for Marilyn Neer Lindstrom
Peggy Norris for Howard and Margaret Doherty
June Robinson for Jane McLaughlin
Dick and Beverly Davidson for Mabel Byrd
Virginia Fitzpatrick and Vincent and Betty Avallone for Norma
Richardson
Virginia Fitzpatrick for Frances Hankins
Virginia Fitzpatrick for Bettijane Solf Boltman
Roosevelt Class of 1943 for Carl “Fred” Rose
Walter and Violet Johnson for Ralph Smart

Members and Friends

Members whose support keeps our organization going.

Business members who generously offer us inkind discounts on office supplies, equipment, printing and other necessities.

Businesses who keep the “Lincolns for Lincoln” jars on their counters year round.

A heartfelt Thank You

Clallam County Historical Society

Exhibit Locations

Museum at the Carnegie

207 South Lincoln
Port Angeles
360-452-6779

Federal Building

First and Oak
Port Angeles

The Landings

115 E. Railroad Ave.
Port Angeles

Fairchild Airport

Port Angeles

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Museum News

Visit the Historical Society's web site at
www.clallamhistoricalsociety.com

President's Message, continued from page 1

1. **Completing the Museum Assessment Program**
2. **Preparing a Washington State Capital Grant**
3. **Continue the renovation of the Lincoln School site**
4. **Continue to seek new membership**
5. **Continue to develop educational programs at the Museum at the Carnegie**
6. **Continue to develop the utilization of technology in a museum setting**
7. **Continue local fundraising activities and external grant applications**
8. **Continue to develop a positive orientation program**
9. **Continue to develop a strong public relations program**

By acting on the above, CCHS will be taking the steps necessary to actively carry out what is stated in the society's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

During 2008, we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Clallam County Historical Society and the 37th anniversary of the Ge-

nealogical Society. Under the leadership of Virginia Fitzpatrick and Kathy Monds and their committees, the rich history of both societies will be celebrated throughout the year. The celebration will provide a tapestry of people and events from Clallam County that played such an active role in preserving Clallam County history. Perhaps the motto, "The past is our present to YOU" would be appropriate.

John Norton, Sr.

President
Clallam County Historical Society